

BEFORE THE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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Application of)	
)	
SAUDI ARABIAN AIRLINES)	
CORPORATION)	Docket DOT-OST-2015-0062
)	January 4, 2022
For Exemption Authority pursuant to)	
49 U.S.C. § 40109)	
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ANSWER OF ATLAS AIR, INC.

Communications with respect to this document should be served on:

Adam R. Kokas
Executive Vice President, General
Counsel & Secretary
ATLAS AIR, INC.
2000 Westchester Avenue
Purchase, NY 10577-2543
(914) 701-8576 - Telephone
(914) 701-8333 - Fax
adam.kokas@atlasair.com

Naveen C. Rao
Senior Regulatory Affairs Counsel
ATLAS AIR, INC.
801 17th Street, NW, Suite 201
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 975-6017 - Telephone
(202) 822-9152 - Fax
naveen.rao@atlasair.com

January 4, 2022

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ANSWER OF ATLAS AIR, INC.

Atlas Air, Inc. (“Atlas”) hereby responds to the application of Saudi Arabian Airlines Corporation (“Saudi Arabian Airlines”), dated December 20, 2021, for Exemption Authority pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 40109 in order to operate seventh-freedom foreign air transportation of property and mail between Liège, Belgium, on the one hand, and New York (JFK) and Chicago (ORD), on the other hand.

As a general matter, Atlas firmly supports liberalized market access including Open Skies agreements that provide for seventh freedom traffic rights for all-cargo services on a reciprocal basis. Multiple U.S. Open Skies partners, including several in the Persian Gulf region, permit seventh freedom rights on a reciprocal basis. Regrettably, Saudi Arabia is not among these partners.

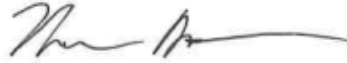
In its application, Saudi Arabian Airlines describes current market conditions, but

it has not set forth reasons why the exemption would be in the public interest. Numerous U.S. and EU air carriers may operate air transportation services between Belgium and the United States exercising third and fourth freedom traffic rights. Other air carriers may do so using fifth or seventh freedom traffic rights depending on their respective air services agreements.

Accordingly, Atlas respectfully requests that the Department defer action on Saudi Arabian Airlines' application until such time as the U.S. Government can secure seventh freedom traffic rights for U.S. air carriers on a reciprocal basis from the Government of Saudi Arabia. At such time, and consistent with Atlas' longstanding support for liberalized market access, Atlas would not seek such a deferral. However, granting Saudi Arabian Airlines seventh freedom rights in the absence of such rights for U.S. carriers would be contrary to the public interest.

ATLAS AIR, INC.
Answer

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Naveen Rao', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.


Naveen Rao
Senior Regulatory Affairs Counsel
ATLAS AIR, INC.
801 17th Street, NW, Suite 201
Washington, D.C. 20006

January 4, 2022

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have, this 4th day of January 2022, caused a copy of the foregoing reply to be served by e-mail on all persons listed below:

Name	Representing	E-Mail
Douglas Jacobson	Saudi Arabian Airlines	djacobson@jacobsonburton.com
Benjamin Taylor	U.S. Department of Transportation	Benjamin.taylor@dot.gov
Robert Finamore	U.S. Department of Transportation	Robert.finamore@dot.gov
Richard Yoneoka	U.S. Department of State	yoneokar@state.gov
Anne Bechdolt	FedEx	Anne.bechdolt@fedex.com
Brian Hedberg	FedEx	Brian.hedberg@fedex.com
Sandra Lunsford	FedEx	Sandra.lunsford@fedex.com
Dontai Smalls	UPS	dsmalls@ups.com
Anita Mosner	UPS	anita.mosner@hklaw.com
Marina O'Brien	UPS	marina.obrien@hklaw.com
Benjamin Slocum	UPS	Benjamin.slocum@hklaw.com



Naveen Rao